

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 IO-14 DRC-01 /136 W  
----- 130736

R 121505Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 536

INFO USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 4514

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT YO AL

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARING ALBANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

REF: USNATO 4612 (NOTAL)

1. HOT TOPIC IN BELGRADE THESE DAYS IS REPORTED OUSTER ALBANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER WAS ASKED SEPTEMBER 10 BY THE WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT WHETHER WE KNEW THE ALBANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER, BEQIR BALLUKU, HAD BEEN DEPOSED AND EXECUTED. EMBOFF SAID HE THOUGHT HE REMEMBERED HEARING SOMETHING ABOUT BALLUKU NOT APPEARING WHEN HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE, BUT KNEW NO SPECIFICS. THEN REUTERS CORRESPONDENT CAME IN WITH  
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THE SAME STORY, MINUS THE EXECUTION BUT PLUS MORE DETAILS, INCLUDING

THAT BALLUKU HAD EVOKED ENVER HODZA'S IRE IN A SPEECH ON ALBANIAN FOREIGN POLICY IN WHICH HE HAD CLAIMED "ONE COULD NOT SAY THE SUPER POWERS WERE EQUALLY BAD", WHICH WAS INTERPRETED AS BEING PRO-SOVIET. REUTERS MAN GOT CONFIRMATION OF A SORT FOR HIS STORY FROM TWO SOURCES. FIRST, HE NAILED ALBANIAN EMBASSY DEPUTY JORGAQ MIHALI AT A COCKTAIL PARTY AND, WHILE LATTER WOULD NOT DIRECTLY CONFIRM THE OUSTER, HE SAID THAT FOLLOWING A JULY 25-26 PLENUM DEVOTED TO DEFENSE QUESTIONS, "CADRE CHANGES" WERE MADE. (POLCOUNSELOR HAD TRIED TO TALK TO MAHALI AT SAME FUNCTION, BUT LATTER VIRTUALLY FLED AT APPROACH.) SUBSEQUENTLQ, ACTING FSFA NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES DIRECTOR MIODRAG KRDZIC TOLD REUTERS BALLUKU WAS DEFINITELY OUT.

3. RED TANJUG FOREIGN PRESS REVIEW (DISTRIBUTED TO PARTY/ GOVERNMENT HEIRARCHY) REPORTED BOTH POST AND REUTERS VERSION SEPT 12, SO RUMOR WILL NOW RUN THE DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT TO THE DETRIMENT OF ACCURACY AND SUBSEQUENT ABILITY TO TELL FACT FROM FANTASY.  
TOON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, FOREIGN MINISTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BELGRA04514  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** USNATO 4612 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 APR 2002  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISAPPEARING ALBANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, YO, AL, (BALLUKU, BEQIR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005